

Rich Russell, Rich B.

Russell Denies CIA Makes Foreign Policy

'Sheer Poppycock,' He Tells Senate; Jurisdiction Issue

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON—Senator Richard B. Russell, (Dem.), Georgia, told the Senate Monday it is "sheer poppycock" to contend that the Central Intelligence Agency makes or takes over foreign policy.

Senator Russell, who heads a subcommittee charged with overseeing the activities of the intelligence organization, rejected vigorously proposals that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee share in his supervision. Senator Russell also heads the Senate Armed Services Committee.

'NO JUSTIFICATION'

"There is no justification whatever for any other committee to muscle in on the jurisdiction of the Armed Services Committee so far as the CIA is concerned," he said.

As for charges he said had been made that the CIA at times operates independently of the State Department and influences for

foreign policy actions, Senator Russell said:

"There simply is not a scintilla of truth in such a charge and not a single concrete case can be provided where it has done so."

Senator Russell said these "erroneous charges are calculated to deceive members of Congress." He added that they "affect the sources available to the CIA, which are easily disturbed."

'MUST STAND MUTE'

He was making a public statement, Senator Russell said, because the CIA is, by its nature, "compelled to stand mute" when such charges are made.

He noted that the CIA was set up under the National Defense Act of 1947. The Armed Services Committee shepherded that act through the Senate, he argued, and thus inherited the duty of overseeing the CIA's activities.

Senatorial supervision of the CIA is shared by senior members of the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees which make funds available for clandestine operations.

Senator Russell noted that he, Senators Leverett Saltonstall, (Rep.), Massachusetts, Margaret Chase Smith (Rep.), Maine, and John Stennis (Dem.), Mississippi, are members of both committees. Other members of the supervisory subcommittee are

Senators Carl Hayden (Dem.), Arizona, Stuart Symington (Dem.), Missouri, and Milton R. Young (Rep.), North Dakota. Senator Symington is a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, as well as the Armed Services Committee.